

Appendix I

Resolution on control of small arms and light weapons (SALW)

(Adopted by final plenary session of the Conference)

The Group of 78 welcomes the leadership shown by the Government of Canada on the issue of international control of small arms and light weapons. By comparison with the campaign to ban anti-personnel land mines, objectives in SALW control are complex and multi-faceted, with differences among parties as to appropriate processes and timing. But it is equally important in this case to have consultation and collaboration among non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies in Canada and internationally. Regarding preparations for the UN conference on SALW in 2001, the G78 recommends the following to the Government of Canada.

- (1) Canada should ratify as soon as possible the convention of the Organization of American States against illicit trafficking in SALW, a convention signed by Canada several years ago. Lack of ratification casts doubt on Canada's commitment to international peace and human security, while ratification would do the reverse.
- (2) Canada should seek agreement among like-minded nations on a program of action for the 2001 conference. Basic agreement within a core group would help generate momentum toward global consensus on SALW control among governments and NGOs. NGOs should be more directly involved in conference preparations and would best serve the interests of public involvement and support by being outspoken in their advocacy.
- (3) The Government should favour measures to achieve a high degree of parliamentary oversight and accountability with respect to arms transfers. Such measures would constitute a logical and important extension of the current practice of presenting an annual report on military exports.
- (4) Particular attention should be paid to the need to assist newly-emerging democracies in the transition from heavy reliance on defence trade to reliance on civilian industries.